BLM

RESTORING LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVES

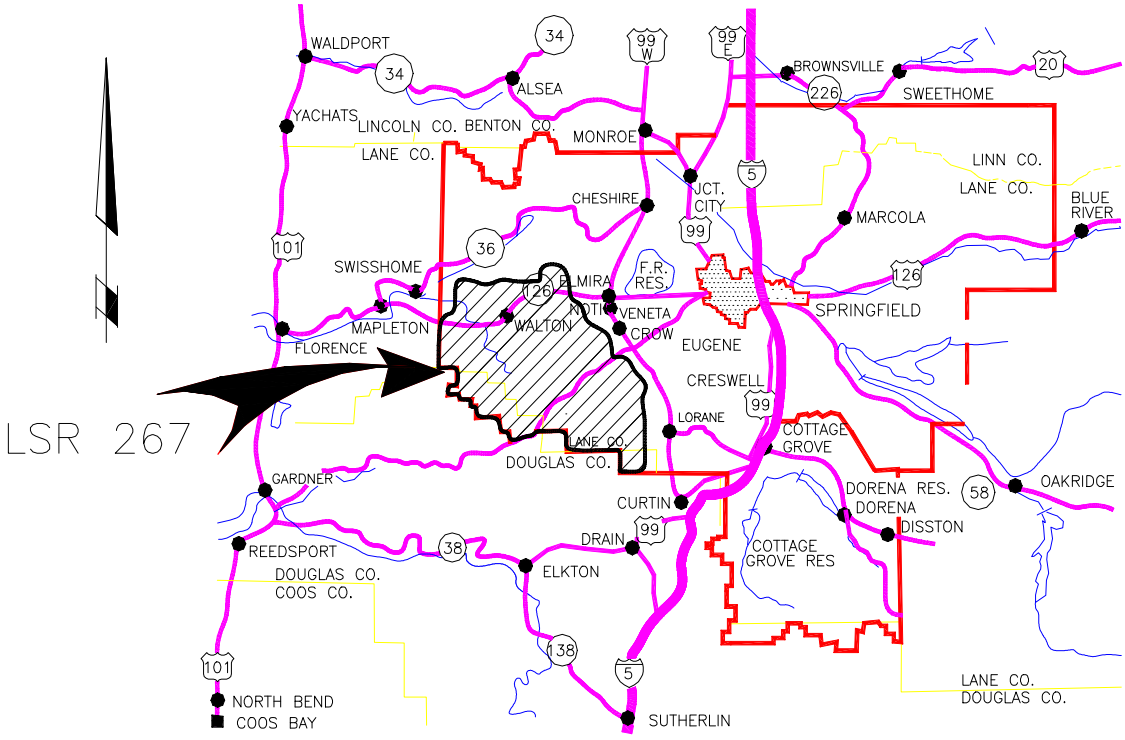
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is embarking on an exciting new long term project to develop a plan to restore natural processes in one of the Late-Successional Reserves in the Coast Range west of Eugene. On-the-ground actions will promote healthy forests, support native plants and animals, and help ensure our enjoyment of the natural splendors of this backyard treasure for years to come.

LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVE–WHAT IS IT?

The Northwest Forest Plan, completed in 1994, established direction for managing ecosystems within the range of the northern spotted owl. The Plan set out several Land Use Allocations. Each allocation is managed to meet specific objectives.

Two such allocations are Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) and Riparian Reserve. An LSR is intended to protect and enhance late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems. Riparian Reserves, those areas generally adjacent to stream networks, emphasize conservation of aquatic and riparian-dependent resources.

Several LSRs were designated in the Northwest Forest Plan. "LSR 267" stretches from the eastern foothills of the Coast Range west to the Pacific, and from just north of Highway 126 south to the Umpqua/Siuslaw divide. The portion of LSR 267 that lies in the Eugene District BLM, along with all the Riparian Reserves within it, is the focus of this new project.



WHY LSR 267?

Prior to the Northwest Forest Plan, BLM's management of this area emphasized timber production, using methods current at the time. Many timber harvests were clearcuts. After harvest, seedlings were planted at a very high density per acre under the assumption that we would return to thin and ultimately to clearcut once again.

Clearcut harvest of older-aged forests began to raise concerns about the continued existence of creatures such as the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and various fish species. Consequently, the Northwest Forest Plan set a new course for future management. But the legacy of our past practices continues.

Today, in LSR 267 there are over 50,000 acres of stands less than 80 years old. Few of these stands resemble naturally developing forests.

We believe these stands can be changed from timber plantations to forests with old-growth characteristics sooner than if left alone. Possible actions might include creating snags for wildlife use, thinning stands to hasten the development of old-growth characteristics, putting logs and boulders in streams for improved fish habitat, or closing roads to preserve stream quality.

WHY ME?

We could tell you what we think is best for the forest. But, we want to do things in a different way - we want you to become involved in suggesting, planning and implementing actions to meet LSR goals.

We want to hear from you - we want you to help us design our forests of the future. What are the important values of an old-growth forest that should guide our work? What could be done to develop these values? Are there partnerships that we could establish to help us accomplish LSR goals?

These and a myriad of other questions need answers, and the answers come from YOU. If you are interested, or would just like to learn more about our restoration efforts in LSR 267, please fill out the attached response form and put it in the mail. We will add your name to our information distribution list for notices about meetings, field tours, and publications.

For more information, contact:

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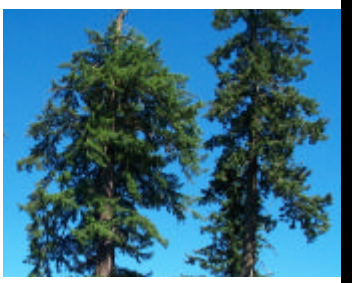
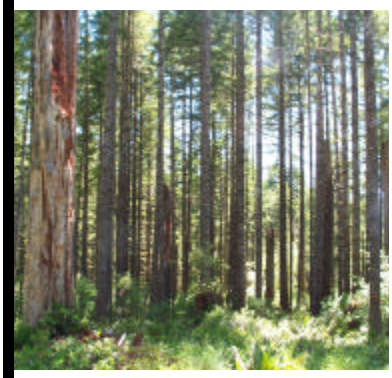
OLD GROWTH OR LATE –SUCCESSIONAL – WHICH IS IT?

People sometimes use the terms "old growth" and "late-successional" interchangeably, but there is a big difference!



True "old-growth" stands possess certain characteristics, such as large trees, standing dead trees (snags), and fallen trees on the forest floor and in streams. Generally, stands need to be at least 200 years old before they have developed these features, which provide habitat for a unique set of wildlife species such as the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and fisher.



The Northwest Forest Plan uses the term "late-successional" to refer to both mature and old-growth stands, generally those more than 80 years old. The youngest of these stands are just beginning to develop the characteristics we usually see in true old-growth stands.